



NEWS RELEASE

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Kernan: Four Southeastern Indiana companies enroll in Indiana@Work

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – As four Southeastern Indiana companies plan to expand their workforces, Gov. Kernan today announced more than \$42,000 in grants to assist them.

Wayne County's **Autocar LLC** and **Color-Box LLC**, Ripley County's **Bed Techs Inc.** and Rush County's **Intat Precision Inc.** were awarded a total of \$42,757 from the state's new workforce development initiative, Indiana@Work, offered through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. A total of 498 new and existing workers will have their skills assessed and 16 different occupations will be profiled at the facilities.

"Indiana@Work is a great tool for Hoosier businesses that are looking to hire quality workers," Kernan said. "Through skills assessments and job profiles, companies can identify the strengths and weaknesses of each applicant and provide training to their current employees to help close any skill gaps. We are delighted to add these four companies to the growing number of businesses in Southeastern Indiana who have joined Indiana@Work."

Recently celebrating its first year of operation in Wayne County, **Autocar LLC** will use \$16,480 to assess the skills of up to 300 people. The company, headquartered in Hagerstown, also will be able to profile five of its existing positions including axle set, frame subassembly, engine set, axle subassembly and cab set. Employing 160 people in Indiana, Autocar is oldest vehicle nameplate in continuous production in the nation. As a manufacturer and marketer of low-cab-over-engine class 8 trucks, Autocar's products are sold into an array of heavy vocational truck markets, primarily in refuse and waste disposal. Autocar is a wholly owned subsidiary of Grand Vehicle Works Holdings, LLC of Highland Park, Ill.

Ripley County's **Bed Techs Inc.** will assess up to 15 existing and prospective employees and profile four jobs with \$8,324 from Indiana@Work. The four profiled jobs include office manager, utility worker, supervisor and a position in its shipping department. The Milan-based hospital bed refurbisher employs 13 and plans to add five additional people to its staff over the next year.

"We are grateful to the state of Indiana for providing these types of programs, and we are excited about taking our work force to a higher level of competency and efficiency," said Michael Wilson, president and co-founder of Bed Techs.

Added Tim Brandes, vice president and co-founder, "As a rapidly growing small business, it can be a challenge to invest the time needed to hire, train and develop our workforce to sustain the growth. Indiana@Work clearly provides the resources we need to ensure a stable, reliable and energetic team."

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Color-Box LLC will utilize \$8,916 from Indiana@Work to assess up to 135 jobs applicants as it seeks to fill available positions at its Richmond facility. The Wayne County company also will profile its material handler, stacker and packer positions. A wholly owned subsidiary of Georgia-Pacific, Color-Box not only delivers high quality graphic packaging but is also an integrated packaging supplier. The company has coast-to-coast locations including two production facilities in Indiana.

"Indiana@Work creates a win-win situation for each individual worker and for our company," said Jeff Pobanz, general manager of Color-Box Richmond. "By understanding our employment needs better, the Department of Workforce Development is able to provide us with additional qualified applicants for our positions at the plant."

Rushville's **Intat Precision Inc.** has requested \$9,037 from Indiana@Work to provide skills assessments for 48 people and profile four positions, including maintenance apprentice, machine shop operator, mold department operator and finish operator. Established in 1988, Intat Precision is a global original equipment manufacturer of cast and machined precision castings to the automotive industry. Employing 385 people, the Rush County company manufactures brake drums, rotors, engine bearing caps, knuckles, carriers, calipers, anchors and engine brackets.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 21,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 400 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys® skill assessments, a comprehensive testing system developed by ACT® that identifies an individual's skill level, are the centerpiece of Indiana@Work. Based on the assessment scores, the next step is to match individuals with available jobs that require similar skills. The program also offers financial support to fill in any skill gaps through training.

Job profiling, the employer segment of Indiana@Work, helps businesses identify skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with existing staff to define the duties and skills needed to perform in each occupation and together they create specific job profiles. Those profiles are then used in the hiring and placement process.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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